

Atty. Dkt. No. 10011675-1

REMARKS

This reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 10, 2006 in which Claims 1-5, 7-26, and 30-39 were rejected. Claims 27-29 are allowed. An objection was made to claim 6. With this response, a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 is filed to overcome the rejections of the claims based upon the cited prior art references. Claims 1-39 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

I. Rejection of 1-5, 7-26, and 30-39.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 7-26, and 30-39 based upon various combinations of one or more of the noted references with U.S. Patent No. 6,659,587 to Bert et al. With this response, a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 is filed herewith, establishing the invention of the subject matter of Claims 1-39 prior to December 19, 2001, the filing date of Berg et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1-5, 7-26, and 30-39 based in whole or at least in part upon Berg et al. be withdrawn.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-29 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the recognition in the Office Action of the allowability of these claims.

III. Objection to claim 6

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 6 depends upon claim 1. Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable based on the overcoming of the Berg et al. reference as described above. Hence, Applicants submit that the objection to claim 1 is overcome. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

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IV. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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